

CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

January 1, 2006

(status through December 31, prepared February 7)

Overview Page

Refer to the subsequent pages for details and trends

TOTAL POPULATION

275

CAPTIVE POPULATION

147

Los Angeles Zoo	31
San Diego WAP	28
WCBP Boise	53
Oregon Zoo	16
Mentor birds in field pens	1
Pre-release birds in field pens	18

WILD POPULATION

128

California		57
Wild-fledged	0	
Wild, Southern California-released birds	20	
Wild, Central California-released birds	37	
Nestlings in wild nests	0	
Baja California		11
Wild, from releases	11	
Arizona		60
Wild-fledged	3	
Wild, from releases	56	
Nestlings in wild nests	0	

Changes in December:

Southern California-released birds – The 2004 wild-fledged juvenile (#326) was trapped because of lack of coordination, and after testing was moved to the field pen for further evaluation before release. Birds #238 and #245 released at Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge December 6, 2005.

Central California-released birds – 6-year-old female was taken to LAZ for chelation threatment. Remains through December.

Arizona – 2-year-old male found dead in Utah. A wild-fledged bird in 2004 was found with a broken wing, treated, and may be re-release soon. One nestling fledged in the wild at Vermilion Cliffs.

Production in 2005:

50 captive-laid and 6 wild-laid eggs; 37 surviving nestlings

California Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf

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January 1, 2006

(status through December 31, prepared February 7)

TOTAL POPULATION

275

CAPTIVE POPULATION

146

Los Angeles Zoo	31 (incl. 7 young and 1 rescued wild offspring)
San Diego WAP	28 (incl. 5 young)
WCBP Boise	53 (incl. 13 young)
Oregon Zoo	16 (incl. 2 young)
Mentor birds in field pens	1 (SB# 64 in Baja CA)
Pre-release birds in field pens	18
Southern California	0
Central California	3 (SB# 363,375,376)
Baja California	3 (SB# 319, 338, 344)
Arizona	5 (SB# 327, 334, 337, 353, 354; SB# 366, 368,371,382,383,384,387 transferred to AZ from Boise Dec. 15 th)

WILD POPULATION

129

California

57

Flying, wild-fledged	0
Southern California-released birds	
Flying	19
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	1 (SB# 326)
Central California-released birds	
Flying	36
Recaptured for observation	1 (SB# 208)
Nestlings in wild nests	

Baja California

13

Flying, from releases	11
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	2 (SB# 225, 323)

Arizona

59

Flying, wild-fledged	3
Flying, from releases	52
Recaptured, temporarily held in field pen	4 (SB# 162, 232, 324, 350)
Nestlings in wild nests	0

Changes in November:

Southern California-released birds – SB# 326, the 2004 wild-fledged juvenile, was trapped and sent to LAZ on Nov. 29 because of lack of coordination, and after testing and observation he was moved into the Hopper Mtn NWR field pen on Nov. 30 to await further evaluation before release. Birds #247,255 were released at Bittercreek Refuge, and returned to Hopper Refuge on their own. Birds #238 and #245 released at Bittercreek December 6 and have remained.

Central California-released birds – 6-year-old female SB# 208 was taken to LAZ for chelation threatment after field blood testing detected high lead level. Bird being held for observation in Los Angeles.

Arizona –One nestling (SB# 389) fledged in the wild at Vermilion Cliffs on Nov. 30. Chick #392 fledged in AZ Dec. 22.

Production in 2005: (See final page)

Wild Population Statistics, December 1, 2005

Releases:

1988-92: So. CA – 15 Andean condors released, 1 died, 14 recaptured and released in South America

1992-95: So. CA – 13 California condors released in 1992-93: 6 died, 7 returned to captivity permanently

1995 – (2005, through November):

California Condors Released

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	Total
California	14	8	12	0	13	9	10	14	5	14	8	107
Baja CA							0	3	2	3	6	14
Arizona	0	6	13	9	7	12	0	11	7	8	14	87
TOTAL	14	14	25	9	20	21	10	28	14	25	28	208

Released-bird Deaths

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	Total
California	0	2	3	3	6	5	4	3	9	0	2	37
Baja CA								0	0	1	0	1
Arizona		0	3	2	1	11	1	4	1	2	4	29
TOTAL	0	2	6	5	7	16	5	7	10	3	6	67

Of four wild-fledged birds, there has been one death (Arizona bird fledged in 2003, died March 2005)

Returned to Captivity Permanently or Indefinitely

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	(2005)	Total
California	1	0	4	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	12
Baja CA								0	0	0	0	0
Arizona		0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	2	1	0	1	15

Wild Population Trend (Population size on July 1 each year)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CALIFORNIA											
Birds from releases	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	36	41	44	54
Wild nestlings								3	1	3	2
Wild-fledged birds											1
CA Total	6	17	16	23	29	30	32	39	42	47	57
BAJA CA											
Birds from releases									5	5	9
ARIZONA											
Birds from releases			13	15	20	20	26	32	36	43	51
Wild nestlings									1	2	2
Wild-fledged birds										1	2
AZ Total			13	15	20	20	26	32	37	46	55
TOTAL	6	17	29	38	49	50	58	71	84	98	121

Wild Production, 2001- 2005

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, California: **2*** in 2001; **3** in 2002; **1** in 2003; **3** in 2004 (*one trio with 2 eggs)

Egg-laying pairs in the wild, Arizona: **1** in 2001; **2** in 2002; **3** in 2003; **2** in 2004

Wild-fledged birds, California: 1 in 2004

Wild-fledged birds, Arizona: 1 in 2003, 2 in 2004, 2 in 2005

Of **18** wild-laid eggs, **1** hatched in captivity and was released to the wild, **10** hatched in the wild (fate of nestlings: 4 fledged, 1 in rehab, 5 died), and **7** eggs failed (broken, died, or fate unknown)

Production in 2005: Eggs: 50 captive-laid and 6 wild-laid; **Nestlings:** 34 surviving young birds were produced in captivity; 2 surviving nestlings were produced from wild eggs, and 1 rescued nestling that hatched in a wild nest from a captive-laid egg is now being puppet-raised in captivity.

Los Angeles Zoo – 8 eggs laid: 1 egg died, 7 nestlings

San Diego WAP – 11 laid: 2 infertile, 2 late-term deaths of fertile eggs, 1 chick death, 5 nestlings, 1 egg transferred in April for fostering into a wild California nest; 1 Oregon Zoo egg died at hatching

WCBP Boise – 28 laid: 1 broken, 3 dead, 4 infertile, 20 nestlings

Oregon Zoo – 3 laid, 3 fertile: 1 egg transferred to SDWAP, 2 nestlings

Wild, California – 3 laid: 1 failed to hatch; 1 hatched successfully but died after emergency rescue (West Nile virus); 1 failed to hatch and was replaced with a foster captive-laid egg that hatched but as an older nestling had to be emergency rescued (trash ingestion), treated, and reared in captivity.

Wild, Arizona – 3 laid: 1 failed to hatch (embryo death), 1 bird fledged, 1 nestling remains.

Explanatory Notes

Numbers reported in the monthly status report should be treated as tentative data. These are based on the best information available each month from cooperators in the field and facilities. If a reporting error is discovered after posting online, no correction will be disseminated, unless the error is substantive. Occasionally, a missing bird will continue to be reported live each month until field personnel are satisfied that there is little likelihood it is still alive. For such individuals, the date last detected normally is presumed to be the date of death. Questions about these summaries should be directed to RJurek @ dfg.ca.gov.

SB# - Condor Studbook number

"CAPTIVE POPULATION" includes:

- birds captured from the wild prior to 1988 that are still in a captive facility (e.g., zoo)
- previously released birds returned to captivity permanently or for care and possible re-release
- surviving chicks and juveniles (excludes eggs laid)
- captive-hatched birds retained for captive breeding
- young birds held in breeding facilities in preparation for transfer to a field pen for release
- "mentor birds" from a captive facility transferred temporarily into a field pen to aid socialization of pre-release birds
- birds transferred from a captive facility to a field pen in preparation for initial release or re-release
- LAZ is Los Angeles Zoo; WAP is Wild Animal Park, Zoological Society of San Diego; WCBP is World Center for Birds of Prey, The Peregrine Fund; OZ is Oregon Zoo

"Released" refers to birds raised in captivity and introduced to the wild; to previously released birds that were translocated to a second population (date of release to the second population becomes the release date for tracking purposes); and to birds captured prior to 1988 that were returned to the wild after 1995.

"Re-released" refers to previously released birds that were re-captured temporarily and held in field pens, or that were re-captured for long-time care or observation in breeding facilities, and that were later returned to their original wild population.

"WILD POPULATION" includes:

- free-flying birds recently accounted for
- free-flying birds, assumed to be alive, although not recently accounted for
- nestlings in wild nests
- temporarily re-captured wild birds, held in a field pen, that are intended to be re-released soon

"So. Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites from San Luis Obispo County to Ventura County by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Central Calif." refers to birds originally released at sites north of San Luis Obispo County by the Ventana Wilderness Society. Birds released in the two California release areas now freely intermingle.

"Baja Calif." refers to birds originally released in Baja California, Mexico, by the Zoological Society of San Diego, the Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, and the Instituto Nacional de Ecología.

"Arizona" refers to birds released by The Peregrine Fund in Arizona and that range in Arizona and other states east of Calif.

Mortalities requiring law enforcement investigation often will not be publicly reported immediately.

California Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/t_e_spp/tebird/Condor%20Pop%20Stat.pdf